

CAP'S FUTURE AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY

Ashes and Clinkers of Jealousy and Discord Must be Removed Before Our Dreams Can Come True, Thinks Wren.

NEED OF COOPERATION

Men With Means to Develop Nature's Bounty, and the Civic Spirit Whereby Each Dedicates Himself to the Common Good is Gap's Only Hope

By W. H. Wren

For years Big Stone Gap has been acknowledged the "future" Queen City of the Virginia coal fields. Visitors from distant points are continually impressed with the beautiful scenery and the pure, invigorating mountain air. After surveying our natural wealth in this respect, they become amazed at our potentialities and proceed to congratulate us generously. They say that the day is not far off when Big Stone Gap will be the metropolis of this region. They say our natural resources, mild winters and healthful climate, all extend a beckoning hand to industry, while our unequalled setting in this wide beautiful valley and the wonderfully abundant supply of pure water, is a combination that the homeseeker can hardly resist.

Kind Forecasts Renew Hopes

Thus we are graciously told of what the outcome of it all will be surely. These kind forecasts make us take on renewed hope and we serenely contemplate the happy event much as we would look forward to an eclipse of the moon. It is the attitude of Stephen Douglas, who being naturally endowed with wealth, social graces and position, confidently expected a place of leadership among his contemporaries. Eventually, however, he had to contend with a rail-splitter, one who was nurtured at the sad but loving breasts of poverty. Every school boy knows the result. They recall the contrast of Abraham Lincoln coming to the debates in an ox wagon, and the polished Senator Stephen Douglas, amid scenes of wealth and affluence.

Big Stone Gap is surrounded by hustling, thriving communities built on the rugged mountain sides in spite of natural handicaps. These cliff dwellers are the Abraham Lincolns of the future. It behoves every citizen and taxpayer, therefore, to consider carefully the question, "Whither are we drifting?" How much of Big Stone Gap's future belongs in the realm of certainty and how much, with all due respect to the prophets and sons of prophets, will have to be set down as an unknown quantity?

Things We're Sure Of

I believe there are some things

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MARRIED IN POST OFFICE MARCH 29th

Stealing a march on their many friends in the Gap Miss Blanche Kilbourne and Charles W. Bennett, Secretary of the Mineral Motor Company, of this place, were quietly married in the Post Office here on the evening of March 29th, the Rev. Jimmy Smith officiating at the ceremony.

The wedding was kept a secret until the young couple went to the Touraine to select an apartment. Here they ran into Mr. Sulfridge, and he talked the story out of them. The next day they went to Bristol to select their furniture and other friends learned the news.

The marriage was kept a secret from the bride's mother until the day before Mr. and Mrs. Bennett started to Bristol. She had been suffering from an infected hand and had not fully recovered at the time. She smiled and remarked Charles W. had picked a good wife, and those who know Mrs. Bennett thoroughly agree with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are now living in the Touraine apartments.

WAMPLER SUCCEEDS JUDGE CARTER AS BANK HEAD

J. B. Wampler, Cashier Since 1916, Selected by Board of Directors to Fill Vacancy Made by Resignation of Judge Carter—Ike Taylor is Cashier.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Big Stone Gap on last Saturday afternoon J. B. (Duck) Wampler was elected to succeed Judge E. T. Carter, resigned, as president of the local institution. Ike Taylor moves forward to position of Cashier held since 1916 by the new president.

The election of the board shatters the old adage that "a prophet is without honor only in his own country," for Mr. Wampler is an East Stone Gap boy, born and raised there.

In 1913 he was a clerk in the payroll office of the Stonegate and Coal Company, Osaka plant. He resigned his position there to accept one as assistant cashier of the bank with Mr. R. P. Barron, who at that time was the cashier. In 1916 Mr. Barron resigned and Wampler stepped into his place.

His numerous friends in the Gap and Wise county will be glad to learn of his good fortune. In Big Stone Gap he is identified with every movement for progress and civic betterment. He is a droll but powerful speaker and has lent his influence to many movements in the home town.

COAL AND COKE IS STILL IN ACTIVE DEMAND

Week Ending April 8th About 10 Per Cent. Lower Than Previous High Week When Demand Was Greatest in Over a Year.

The total production of coal in the Southwest Virginia fields for the week ending April 8th was 131,352 tons, or a loss of 19,888 tons over the previous week when production rose to the highest point since the week ending December 11, 1920. There was also a decline in the amount of coke burned. For the week ending April 1 a total of 7,328 tons were produced as against 6,804 for the week of April 8th.

While there was a loss of 19,888 tons of coal over the week before the amount produced during the same week in 1921 was only 88,882 tons.

For the week ending April 8th the N. & W. hauled 35,819 tons, or 1,087 more tons than the week before. The other roads operating this field all show a loss in the amount hauled over the previous week. Mines served by the Interstate shipped 37,694 tons as against 45,103 for the week before. The Southern received 20,293 tons as against 25,719 of the week before. The C. & O. only shipped 37,546, a loss of 8,140 tons from the week before. The Norton and Northern did not have any mines operating along its tracks and shipped no coal.

COMMUNITY LIFE CAMPAIGN

The General Committee for the organization of the State Wide Community Life Campaign, for education, health, agriculture, roads, home life, Churches, and Sunday Schools have fixed the period of the campaign from April 23 to May 20. It is desired to have this Community Life Campaign close by May 20 so as not to conflict with the Virginia Historical Pageant Program. Directors and County Councils for the conduct of the campaign have been appointed in most of the counties of the state. Abundant literature on the campaign can be secured by speakers and those interested in this movement on application to Prof. Geo. W. Guy, Richmond, Va., secretary of the Publicity Committee. All classes of public spirited citizens in Virginia are cordially invited to co-operate in this movement which looks to the improvement of every interest and activity of the people of this State.

The optimist never worries over a busted bubble. He blows another while he waits.

BOND ISSUE GOES OVER DESPITE 11TH HOUR EFFORT OF OPPOSITION

Many Believe Circular Issued by Rose Purporting to Give Voters Facts of Town Indebtedness Won Final Victory

KNITTING MILL ROUTE CHOSEN

Supporters of Better Street Movement Wild With Joy As First Step in The Real Industrial Development of Gap is Made

Big Stone Gap will have better streets. The hotly contested bond issue carried by a comfortable majority despite the eleventh hour efforts of the opposition, headed by W. S. Rose, to kill the movement. Many believe the opposition drove the issue through by broadcasting a circular purporting to give voters the facts of the town's indebtedness.

The Knitting Mill, or present route to Southern depot was voted upon for the construction of the road.

The vote stood, for bonds 438; against bonds 92; or a majority of 346 votes. For knitting Mill route 357; for Dummy Line route 185.

The final outcome of the election was never in doubt. The ancient strong arm methods of ward politicians were used by the opposition to belound the issue. Fabulous tales of the town's hopeless indebtedness were the favorite punch, but it failed to impress the clear thinking majority in whose hands the future of the Gap, if it has any, lies. The workers, for both sides were out early and worked until the polls closed. Voters were brought to the polls in automobiles. The ladies provided nurses for mothers while they went to cast their vote. The day had every appearance of a big National election.

MRS. F. L. HILL ENTERTAINS

Mr. Fitzhugh Hill entertained a number of her friends very enjoyably at her apartment, in the Nickels building last Wednesday afternoon in honor of her little baby daughter, Mary Elizabeth, first birthday.

The older guests spent the evening very pleasantly talking and watching the little guests play merrily.

At the close of the afternoon, Mrs. Dan Hill and Mrs. Irbey Nickels assisted Mrs. Hill in serving delicious ice cream and cake to the guests. The little guests were presented a little basket of Easter eggs.

Little Mary Elizabeth, who is an unusually beautiful and bright baby, received many lovely gifts from the following who wished her many more happy birthdays:

Mrs. F. L. Morton and baby, Mrs. Leonard Litton and baby, Mrs. Roy Hylton and baby, son, Roy, Jr., Mrs. J. W. Rush and baby, June, Mrs. Norman Russell and baby, Norman, Jr., Mrs. Ray Hall and baby son, Miss Emma Duncan, Miss Louise Cox, little Eloise Roebuck, Mildred Wolfe, James and Evelyn Taylor, Edith and Nell Wampler, Sue Wampler, Frances Daugherty, Maurine Gilly and sister, May Hill.

Be a Booster and Boost your home town.

Once again the women of Big Stone Gap demonstrated their fitness to have a voice in local and National affairs. They worked hard and never gave up until the last man and woman had been located and brought to the town hall. On Monday, they made a personal canvass of every voter in the town limits. They knew who was for and who was against the bonds on Monday night. Many who had been misled by the clouded arguments of the opposition came to see the light under the sensible argument they put up.

Others who are responsible for the victory are J. B. Wampler, newly elected president of the First National Bank, R. T. Irvine, John W. Chalkley, Judge Skeen, Bob Alsover and numerous others.

The whole town was jubilant over the victory. Many think the factions which have been responsible for the Gap's thirty year slumber have been silenced, and that from now on some semblance of progress will be seen.

It was a long step toward the unity and co-operation Henry Ford Wren, of the Mineral Motor Company, refers to. It is a step in the right direction. Things will begin to happen when the Gap people unite and pull together.

COMMUNITY LIFE CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, Following the period of depression and economic stress as a result of the World War it is thought wise to call our people together from April 23 to May 20, 1922, in their several communities, in a Statewide Community Life Campaign, that they may have an opportunity of studying and discussing the many problems confronting them and formulating a program for the advancement and enrichment of community life conditions in Virginia, and

WHEREAS, The purpose of this campaign is to develop a program and policy to meet community life needs, and to bring about a closer and more effective co-operation and co-ordination of statewide agencies, now,

THEREFORE, I, E. Lee Trinkle, Governor of Virginia, do hereby urge the people of Virginia to co-operate in every possible way in making this Community Life Campaign a success, and request all religious workers to open this campaign on Sunday, April 23, with special services and programs.

GIVEN under my hand and under the Lesser Seal of the Commonwealth, at Richmond, this seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two, and in the one hundred and forty-sixth year of the Commonwealth.

TRADE AT HOME!

Have you ever thought of your merchant as a business adviser? Have you ever realized that when you buy of them you get the benefit of their friendship and advice—that oftentimes they can and will protect your purchase by telling you plain facts about merchandise?

When you buy out of town you usually deal with strangers who are interested chiefly in getting your money. True, they give you something for it; but if they would talk it over with you freely as Mr. Ed Goodloe does, or as frankly as any of our merchants always do, there are many times when your purchase would be differently and more economically made.

Think it over and give your local dealer a chance to be your friend. He'll thank you for the opportunity, and you will profit by it.

TRADE AT HOME

Support the Town that Supports You

"IN RACE UNTIL ITS OVER," SAYS CAMBLOS

Pitches His John B. Into Ring and Declares He'll Fight to The Finish

"Mark Anthony" Camblos, former Gap man, who threw his John B. Stetson in the majority race at Norton the other day, was a visitor here on Monday. He was optimistic about the fight he is going to make, but was too modest to make any prediction as to the outcome.

"You can say I'm into the race until it is over," he said.

Mr. Camblos has only the warmest praise for Mayor Pearce, who has announced that he will be in the race again.

While at Big Stone Gap, Mr. Camblos was an active member of the Young Men's Club, the organization that brought the hosiery mill to the Gap. He was nominated for the presidency of the club but could not accept because of leaving town to locate in Norton. At the present time he is the president of the Kiwanis Club, and is also one of the active workers in the Billy Sunday Club, an organization that has left its mark for better standards of life in the coal fields.

Perhaps the most interesting part of his life was enacted in the town of Kingsport, Tenn., where he was a member of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. He was elected to this board when the town was first incorporated and the fight he made for municipal betterment won for him the reputation of being the "people's man". Old timers in Kingsport claim that the present fire department, the magnificent school and many other civic improvements were due to his courage and ideals. He earned the name of being a fighter, and with the experience back of him gained in the service of the Kingsport people, he should make a splendid showing in the coming race.

300 DOZEN PAIRS OF SOCKS PER DAY

Gap Mill Is Making Socks Faster Than Wise County Men and Boys Can Wear Them Out

The Big Stone Gap Mill of the Taubel-Scott-Kitzmiller Company is gradually putting its machinery into motion. At the present time more than 300 dozen pairs of socks per day are being turned out. This amount is being knitted by girls trained in the local mill and not by expert operators brought in by the mill people.

About 150 girls are now employed, and more are being added each week. The payroll is now in the neighborhood of \$1000 per week. When the big mill reaches its capacity more than 650 operators will be employed.

Manager L. B. Wilcox is especially pleased with the young women who have made application for employment. Every modern convenience is used for the comfort and welfare of the girls who turn out the finished product. Well lighted and ventilated rest rooms, restful courts and uncramped working space feature the working surroundings of the mill. The floors are scrubbed weekly, and even the hundreds of windows are kept spotless. And the girls themselves are as attractive as that great army who put the American girl on the map as being the best dressed working girl in the world. The mill is anxious to obtain young women of character who wish to make a comfortable income under congenial surroundings and conditions.

Only one wing of the mill is now in operation. As the gradual return of business justifies the whole plant will be set to work.

Wedding Announcement

We are in receipt of the following announcement of interest to many of our readers. Mr. Taylor, who is president of the Hazard Star Coal Company, is a son of Capt. and Mrs. Henry Taylor of this place:

Mrs. Alice M. Green announces the marriage of her daughter Arlene Lillian to Mr. Henry Thurston Taylor on Saturday April the eighth Nineteen hundred and twenty-two Cincinnati Ohio

KNIGHTS MEET IN SPECIAL CONCLAVE

Norton Scene of Brilliant Gathering of Sir Knights and Their Ladies as Commandery Observes Special Easter Services.

MEMBERSHIP 350 STRONG

Banquet Attended by 350 in Hotel Norton Saturday Night—Big Stone, Appalachia, Coeburn and Wise Well Represented.

Cyrene Commandery, No. 21, Knights Templar, observed their Special Easter Conclave in Norton on last Saturday and Sunday. As is their custom they banqueted on Saturday night and attended the Baptist church in a body on Sunday morning, when the Reverend M. A. Stevenson, of Coeburn, delivered the sermon.

The Commandery, which is one of the strongest in the state, was organized in 1899 and now has a membership of about 350. Among the distinguished Masons present was the Right Eminent Sir Robert Patrick Carr, of Norton, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Virginia. The highest office within the power of the Templars of this state to bestow.

The banquet, which was held in the Hotel Norton, was scheduled for 7:30 p. m. Reservations had been made for 300 guests, but the Knights and their ladies swelled the list to about 350. A slight delay was the result, but a seat was provided for all.

Possibly a more brilliant or more representative assemblage of Wise county people has never been witnessed in this section. It was an excellent "close up" of Wise county in her gayest mood. Good music and an excellent menu made the evening a success.

Sunday morning the Knights marched to the new Baptist church. More than 250 men formed the line, which extended from the hotel almost to the church. Special pews had been reserved for the visitors. The new church holds almost a thousand people and it was seated to capacity when the invocation was made by the Rev. J. F. Benton at 11:00 o'clock.

Many prominent people from Big Stone Gap, Appalachia, Stonegate, Coeburn and Wise were present at the banquet Saturday night and the Divine services Sunday morning.

On Saturday the Rev. J. F. Benton, and J. K. Taggart received the degree of Knight Templar.

BUG DUST SHOVEL IS MANUFACTURED

A shovel designed to remove "bug" dust from "cutting" in a coal mine has been invented and patented by P. W. Ely, of Pennington Gap, and is manufactured by the Bug Dust Shovel Company, of that place. The principal stockholders are P. W. Ely and H. P. Sewell, both former coal miners.

The shovel is made of soft steel, with one side cut away to a certain extent to give more shovel surface to the other side, which causes the shovel to turn over when full of dust, thus unloading without effort on the part of the shoveler when he draws the shovel out of the cutting. A long wood handle enables him to reach a considerable distance.

Coal miners and operators think it a very practical device and others are hard to fill. The company has been working as many men as can operate their present equipment, and it is expected that the company will have to make expansions very shortly.

Ely hit on the idea while shoveling bug dust some months ago. He was using the usual kind of shovel and happened to scoop up too much dust on one side of his shovel, which, when he pulled it out of the cutting, naturally turned sideways and emptied. Then why not a shovel made so as to scoop an overbalancing amount on one side every time? Result: "The Original Bug Dust Shovel."—Crawford's Weekly.

The fellow who is considerate of the faults of others generally has the fewest of his own.